

II. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-38 remain in the application.
2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8, 13-23, 27-32, 34 and 35-38 are patentable over the combination of Smith et al. (US 6,333,973, "Smith") and Bulfer et al. (US 6,175,858, "Bulfer") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Smith and Bulfer fails to disclose or suggest erasing from the memory of the terminal said notification message in response to a specific procedure relating to said contacting, as recited by claim 1. Claims 16 and 30 recite similar subject matter.

The Examiner properly points out that Smith fails to disclose or suggest this feature. Applicant submits that Bulfer also fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

Bulfer is directed to a network agent that retrieves messages from various messaging systems and stores them in a user's mailbox in a mail repository. In column 2, line 52 through column 3, line 2, the agent may delete the messages from the messaging systems and leave a single notification message that triggers the messaging system's own "message waiting" notification system. After a user has accessed their mailbox in the mail repository, the agent may remove the notification message from the messaging system.

Bulfer does not disclose or suggest erasing a notification message from the memory of the terminal. Bulfer only removes messages from messaging systems to which a user subscribes. Bulfer has no disclosure related to erasing messages from the terminal.

Bulfer notifies a user of pending messages using a method predetermined by the user and provides access to the agent through either a voice call or computer access (see col. 3, lines 21 to 29). The user can retrieve, delete, forward and reply to messages in the e-mail repository. It is quite clear from Bulfer that the user only accesses the content on the agent server. There may be paging messages sent to the user to indicate the receipt of messages as well, see column 2, lines 52 to 55, but even then there is nothing about how the paging messages would be treated at the pager or device of the user. There is no disclosure related to deleting messages at a user terminal.

Hence, a person ordinarily skilled in the art would never have attempted to combine Smith or any other disclosure with Bulfer reference to arrive at the present claims because the combination of Smith and Bulfer fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claims 1, 16, and 30.

Therefore, the combination of Smith and Bulfer fails to render claims 1-8, 13-23, 27-32, 34 and 35-38 unpatentable.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-12, 24-26, and 33 are patentable over the combination of Smith, Bulfer and Kaisto (WO 96/25817) under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 9-12, 24-26, and 33 depend from claims 1, 16, or 30.


Kaisto fails to disclose or suggest the features missing from the combination of Smith and Bulfer, that is, erasing from the memory of the terminal said notification message in response to a specific procedure relating to said contacting.

Therefore, the combination of Smith, Bulfer and Kaisto fails to render claims 9-12, 24-26, and 33 unpatentable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

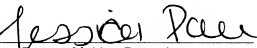

Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

8 November 2006
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited transmitted electronically, on the date indicated below, addressed to the Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 11.8.2006 Signature: 
Person Making Deposit